

NOTES FROM THE WATCHMAN.

BY T. J. NAIR.

"What is religion?" "Gas." The question and answer can be found in the "Dictionary of Discontent" compiled by Henry Labouchere, as an expression of the materialistic, the sensuous spirit of the day.

But we ask, what is religion, for and what is the church doing with it?

We find our answer in the words of Jesus, "I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly." John x and 10.

Jesus seemed to think, His mission was to conserve the life God had given to men and to increase its abundance.

He had His creed,—God my Father, man my brother, and a gospel of great joy to all people.

His life was spent in doing good, preaching, healing, helping and inspiring the broken hearted with the idea of a new life. He did not say men would be saved by creed, but by a life hid with Christ in God, for the more creed we have the farther we get from God. Look at the dark and bloody days in church history, when the church had departed from the life that Christ had brought and put the emphasis on doctrine and when believing a creed had become essential to salvation.

Then persecutions and inquisitions were justified to crush out heresy and advance the true faith. Creeds have been crowded to the front until people have found homes in other organizations which accounts for much of the infidelity now over the land. I am tired of this everlasting contention of the sects and this trying to snatch a man from hell with the grapplingirons of creed, but better are days coming. God hasten the time when denominational fences will give way, that we may clasp hands with a struggling brother and raise him onto the highway of holiness. Let us forget our creeds, and build homes however poor they are—better than to be homeless. The religion of Jesus has and can always improve the condition of the poor. If God was to offer us the power to work miracles upon the body we would ask Him instead increased power to transform men's dead souls into life. We only need to look at Christ how He makes the world

shake off its burial clothes, break open its tombs and start to a life that is alive.

Let the life of Christ be in you and the church be the dynamo that furnishes the social, intellectual, moral and spiritual power of the world and then will the world gain strength and vices be reduced to a minimum. A certain poet has said, "Go bury thy sorrow, bury it deep from sight" but we say go tell it to Jesus, and then will His language go forth, I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly."

FROM DOUBLE BRIDGE, VA.

DEAR EVANGELIST: The good old year of '94 has drawn to a close; it has been an eventful one in the lives of many. Joy and gladness have come to many a heart, and pain and anguish have settled in many a home this year. We look back to the beginning of this year and think of loved ones who greeted the new year with us, so full of hope and joy, but the closing days of the year find them sleeping in the grave; a feeling of loneliness comes over us, when we think their faces and voices will greet and cheer us no more.

Let us look back upon this year and profit by its lesson and guard against a repetition of its failures. Let us determine that during the coming year we will walk humbly, do justly, and love mercy. Ah, brethren let us never forget "mercy." He who in this life always remembers mercy, will in the life to come, himself obtain mercy. Paul says "God is not unrighteous to forget your labor of love." If in this life, I extend mercy to all with whom I come in contact, when I cry for mercy I do not believe I will be sent empty handed away. "Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy," so then brethren in the coming years, let us try to be FULL OF MERCY.

Now in the closing days of the dying year, rededicate your hearts and lives to the Master's service.

Let us form new resolutions and live up to them and adorn the beautiful doctrines of Christ our Savior, asking for the Holy Spirit to guide and counsel us, and to work in us both to will and to do of his good pleasure. We being evil, so joyfully give bread to our

hungry children, now Jesus says "How much more shall your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him. Oh, what an incentive to ask for that Spirit.

May he who tempers the wind to the shorn lamb and hears the young ravens when they cry and giveth them their food; He who through the pathless air doth guide the wild bird's unerring course and when the long drear winter is over bringeth them again with joy to their native lands, may he temper, to our naked condition, the chilly blasts of this inconstant world, may he hear our piteous cry for food, and feed us with the bread of life, and guide our frail barks aright in the perilous voyage across the pathless ocean of life, and when the long drear winter of sin is over; Oh, may He bring us again with joy to the sunny shores of Paradise of God and there through the eternal ages we will praise him though Jesus our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

S. H. LOVE.

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF.

This principle of love to God will be also fruitful of every good work. It will make us readily perform the duties of all relations in which we stand. And because love worketh no ill to his neighbor, therefore, it is the fulfilling of the law, for it will prompt us to a cheerful and ready performance of every office, whether of justice or charity, that we owe to our neighbor. All the best things we can do if destitute of this principle, will appear either to be the effect of hypocrisy, or done to procure the esteem of men. Without love, a narrowness of soul will shut us up within ourselves, and make all we do to others only as a sort of merchandise, trading for our own advantage. It is love only that opens our hearts to consider other persons and to love them on their own account or rather on account of God, who is love. Since there is but one Supreme God, whom we must all adore; and if we love him above all temporal things, and our neighbor as ourselves, we worship him more acceptably than if we sacrifice to him all the cattle upon a thousand hills. And hence we should learn to be really good, and not flatter ourselves that we can cover our crimes with the cloak of hypocrisy, from that piercing eye from which nothing is concealed.—Selected.